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OSD DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

PART III

Following are some typical examples which have been selected at random as being illustrative of the manner in which the information described in Part I has been released.

Address by Senator Humphrey at the European-American Assembly at Burgenstock, Switzerland, July 8, 1961.

"... The development of the reconnaissance satellite - The SAMOS - is a momentous step into the space age which requires basic long-range decision. We must decide now whether we are going to carry the arms race from earth into space or whether we are willing to adopt space arms control before it is too late. America's first reconnaissance satellite - The SAMOS - should be used as a peaceful eye-in-the-sky and not as a militaristic spy-in-the-sky. It is true that a reconnaissance satellite can be sent orbiting over any country to relay information back to the military command which launched it. Thus, it can have extremely high value as a military weapon, but the SAMOS reconnaissance satellite can also be employed as a working instrument of peace..."

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Testimony given by Senator Jackson at Hearings before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate, DOD Appropriations for 1961, 26 May 1960. (Pages 1773 and 1774)

"... You are familiar with the importance of the reconnaissance satellite. This revolutionary vehicle will be the forerunner of a new type of aerial intelligence gathering system.

"The eventual political consequences of the reconnaissance satellite should be equally revolutionary. It will mean that the scientists, whether Mr. Khrushchev likes it or not, will have opened a big hole in the Iron Curtain.

"I think all would agree that we should launch the first model of a reconnaissance satellite, and follow this with an operational satellite reconnaissance system, at the earliest possible date..."

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**House Document No. 207, United States Defense Policies of 1960,
The Honorable Melvin Price, Member of Congress, 26 May 1961.
(Page 65)**

"... The suspension of these high-altitude overflights was a blow to U. S. intelligence agencies and made it more urgent than ever to find an alternate means by which evidence of preparations for surprise attacks on the West might be discovered. One of these

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"possible means was the use of reconnaissance satellites, thus making it highly important that such space vehicles as the Midas and Samos be made operational as soon as possible..."

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Address by The Honorable Courtland D. Perkins, 7 August 1960.

"...Our next space system now under development is SAMOS. Degradation of quality (resolution) in such a system is well known in the technical community. Purpose of the program is to obtain R&D guidance in order to establish technical development programs that may, sometime in the future, provide usable reconnaissance materials. The program at the present time is limited to the minimum number of launches which will provide the required R&D guidance.

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Address by General Thomas D. White, Chief of Staff, USAF, to The National Press Club, Washington, D. C., 11 January 1960.

"...I will not attempt to name all of the specific military advantages we can expect to gain from military space operations -- but several already appear within reach. Among them are more

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"reliable communications, improved early warning and better reconnaissance. Two of these are primarily advantageous as far as the defense is concerned -- their main purpose being to provide us with warning of impending attack. In this respect, we have the MIDAS and SAMOS satellite projects under development. MIDAS, a satellite containing infra-red detection devices is being developed to obtain the earliest possible warning of an ICBM attack against this country. SAMOS is a reconnaissance satellite which we hope will give us a reasonable answer to the question, 'What are the actions of a potential enemy?'..."

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Testimony given by General Schriever at Hearings before the Committee on Science and Astronautics, US House of Representatives, Review of the Space Program, February 5, 1960, (Page 507)

"...Mr. McCormack. Midas and Samos are both detection systems, aren't they? One after the fact and one before the fact?

"Gen. Schriever. That is true. Midas is a warning system.

"Mr. McCormack. Yes, I know, but it is to detect, a warning system?

"Gen. Schriever. Yes, sir.

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"Mr. McCormack. The other one is to be able to go in and see the preparations?

"Gen. Schriever. It is to observe both from an electronic and from a photographic point of view..."

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Testimony given by Gen. Ritland at the Hearings before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, DOD Appropriations for 1961, Part 5, Procurement, 3 March 1960. (Page 494)

"... The MIDAS development program involves the little diamonds with stations at Canaveral, Arguello and Vandenberg and the Hawaiian Islands where we can observe the launches of our own missiles.

"The SAMOS program is represented by the red marks with read-out stations in the United States..."

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Address by Major General O. J. Ritland before the Defense Orientation Association, Statler-Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles, California, 13 April 1960.

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"... Simultaneously with our development of Midas, we are proceeding with the SAMOS program, the global reconnaissance satellite system which will help counteract the Soviet advantage of intelligence information. It is the time-proven military advantage of 'high ground' carried to the near-ultimate..."

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Testimony given by General Wilson at the Hearings before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, DOD Appropriations for 1961, Part 6, Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, 17 March 1960. (Page 425)

"... The SAMOS reconnaissance system concept utilizes a satellite vehicle, modified ICBM booster, launch facilities, tracking facilities, and a complex communication and data processing network. The objective is to place a vehicle in a 94-minute polar orbit which will enable the system to view the entire surface of the earth..."

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1. News Releases for
SAMOS II & III (Uncl)

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